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APR 26 2007

10/721,141

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 46 (canceled).

47. (New): A method of forming a searchable store of information about specific physical products, the method comprising:

(a.) providing data storage containing product information about the specific physical products;

(b.) providing a computer program product comprising:

computer-readable medium;

a reusable product finder software unit stored on the computer-readable medium, the product finder software unit comprising a plurality of product objects and a product manager for performing searches, each product object representing information for a generic product;

a set of metadata rules stored on the computer-readable medium; and

a set of search rules stored on the computer-readable medium;

(c.) combining the product finder software unit with other software units to form an object-oriented software application;

(d.) creating product metadata for the specific physical products using the metadata rules; and

(e.) creating a search configuration in accordance with the search rules; and

wherein the product manager in the software application is operable to perform searches of the product information in the data storage using the product objects and the product metadata, the searches being performed in accordance with the search configuration.

48. (New): The method of claim 47, wherein the product objects comprise Java entity beans and the product manager comprises a Java session bean.

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49. (New): The method of claim 48, wherein the product objects represent information for a generic product by a set of parameters comprising characteristics and attributes.

50. (New): The method of claim 49, wherein the parameters are stored using hashmaps.

51. (New): The method of claim 47, wherein the specific physical products are transformers.

52. (New): The method of claim 47, wherein the set of metadata rules is an XML schema.

53. (New): The method of claim 47, wherein the set of search rules is an XML schema.

54. (New): The method of claim 47, wherein the set of search rules include weight values to apply to product information for ordering of partial matches to identify specific physical products meeting the search configuration.